

open up more employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities. They will also provide state vocational rehabilitation agencies and other agencies and organizations that offer employment-related assistance to individuals with disabilities with the tools they need to give appropriate, timely help to individuals with disabilities who want to work. These provisions bring us closer to a seamless system for job training and employment assistance for individuals with disabilities.

The Workforce Investment Act lays the groundwork to establish an outstanding employment and training system nationwide that will meet the economic demands of the next century. The business community and the Administration have been very helpful in this endeavor. I want to especially thank Secretary Herman and Secretary Riley and their staffs for their work and who literally worked on this legislation up to the last minute. The passage of H.R. 1385 means that this nation will have a better skilled workforce.●

#### BILL TUTTLE, 69, VICTIM AND OPPONENT OF SMOKELESS TOBACCO

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a baseball star died this week. Bill Tuttle, centerfielder for the Detroit Tigers, Kansas City Athletics, and Minnesota Twins over a period of 11 years, succumbed to oral cancer after a five-year battle. Among baseball fans, Mr. Tuttle's baseball card picture, with a bulging cheek full of chewing tobacco, is well-known. Unfortunately, that ever-present wad of tobacco was his undoing. Over the past five years, it cost him part of his jaw, his cheek, a number of teeth, his taste buds, and ultimately his life.

To his credit, when Mr. Tuttle realized what spit tobacco, as he accurately called it, had begun to do to him, he devoted the last years of his life to warning other ballplayers about what might happen to them if they too use spit tobacco. But he did more than reach out to his fellow ballplayers. He spent many hours and days working to prevent young people from starting to use this addictive product.

I ask that a letter be printed in the RECORD that I received from Bill Tuttle during the debate on the tobacco bill earlier this year. It describes his firsthand experience of the ravages of spit tobacco and his efforts to educate children, as well as Major League players, about the dangers of spit tobacco use.

Spit tobacco is addictive, causes cancer and other serious illnesses, and leaves a trail of devastation among its victims and their families. It is essential that we listen to the words of Bill Tuttle and others like him, and continue to fight to prevent the use of smokeless tobacco by our Nation's kids.

The letter follows:

May 18, 1998.

THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE: My name is Bill Tuttle. I hope that some of you remember me as a former Major League Baseball player who played with the Minnesota Twins, Detroit Tigers, and Kansas City Athletics. But, I hope more of you know me as a staunch anti-spit tobacco fighter who, at this very moment, is literally fighting for his life. Little did I know when I started experimenting with spit tobacco some forty years ago at the invitation of a fellow ballplayer, that spit tobacco would become such a major part of my life and death. I chewed every day for many years, right up until the time I was diagnosed with oral cancer five years ago. I have undergone numerous operations to remove cancerous growths in my head and neck. I have endured unimaginable pain and disfigurement from the surgeries and treatments and I have been literally cut apart and patched back together. My family has suffered with me every step of the way. Life has been a living hell for several years now.

I have been blessed, however, with the opportunity to talk to others about the dangers of spit tobacco, particularly young people. I know that the temptation to try new things, especially forbidden things, can be tough for young people. In my message to the thousands of youngsters that I have talked to, I have emphasized that they just should not start using any form of tobacco. If you don't start, you'll never need to stop. But once started, tobacco use can literally addict you to a substance that stands a good chance of killing you. Even after enduring several surgeries and having half of my face cut away, I hate to admit that I still have a craving to try spit tobacco. That's how addicting spit tobacco can be.

I have had some excellent partners in the fight against spit tobacco. Joe Garagiola, Oral Health America, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Major League Baseball, the Major League Baseball Player Association, the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society, and others have supported me in many ways. But my most ardent supporter and best friend is my wife Gloria. She has accompanied me on my visits to schools, community meetings, and spring training. She has become an expert on spit tobacco, particularly what it can do to destroy lives and families.

I am sorry that I can not meet you in person to talk about his matter as my physical condition just won't permit it. But I wish to implore you to become a partner in the fight against spit tobacco. So many of you have already done so much to move badly needed tobacco legislation forward that we must not stop short of the goal—that is to make tobacco products, including spit tobacco, as unavailable and unattractive to young people as possible. I urge you to take the necessary action that will address spit tobacco as aggressively as you will smoking. We need taxes that make all tobacco equally unattractive for young people. We need to monitor not just highly addicted daily users, but also experimenters, if we are to practice prevention and be able to measure progress. And we need to tell people the truth about the addictive nature of spit tobacco, including putting the nicotine content on labels. None of us wishes to see spit tobacco become the bargain basement pathway for young people into a lifetime of tobacco addiction.

On May 19, 1998, my wife Gloria and I will be honored at the Metrodome in Minneapolis as the first recipients of the Bill Tuttle Award. This recognition of our efforts to try to save American children from hazards of tobacco use is greatly appreciated. At the same time, however, this is a very sad occasion for us. We both know that my remain-

ing time in this fight and our remaining time together is limited. It would honor us greatly if you, as the distinguished elected leaders of our country, would commit to an aggressive course of action against spit tobacco. That would be a big league accomplishment and one for which you would never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

BILL TUTTLE.●

#### THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a national resource that is training the military leaders of today and tomorrow. It is the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

The commanding officer of the National Training Center, Brigadier General Dean Cash, is a soldier's soldier. He is dedicated to developing leaders, and he leads by example. General Cash is also dedicated to the soldiers' families. Despite the long hours and tough duty, General Cash makes sure none of the soldiers or officers in his command misses the birth of their child or a birthday celebration. He believes those are significant events that cannot be missed.

And General Cash wants to make sure the families are cared for. Whether its child care, shopping or support groups, the families of the soldiers assigned to Fort Irwin get the best available. The base takes an active role in the schools and also has extended its reach to at-risk children in the Los Angeles basin.

The soldiers at Fort Irwin and the National Training Center are professionals. They present the greatest challenge for units training at the center. This is their mission, and they do it well.

I believe, Mr. President, that the reason our forces were successful against Saddam Hussein in Operation Desert Storm was the training they received at NTC. They were in an environment very similar to conditions in the Middle East. They were fighting against forces simulating the style of the former Soviet bloc. And they were fighting against tanks, artillery and infantry units with a "home field" advantage. The permanent opposition force at NTC knows every rock, every hill and every ravine. That is a tremendous advantage, and really tests the leadership skills of the training forces.

As we see the downsizing of our active Army force, we must have a National Guard and Reserve component acting as an integral part of our military if we have a significant crisis anywhere in the world that we have to deal with. That is why, Mr. President, I am so pleased that the Idaho Snake River Brigade is able to train at NTC. We need to make sure they're ready if called upon.

The facilities at NTC are, to say the least, very impressive. Using the latest state-of-the-art computer, laser and satellite technology, the instructors and observers at NTC can tell, in real

time, where every tank, every piece of artillery and every humvee is at any moment. And each soldier's movements, radio communications and weapons are continuously monitored.

When a simulated battle is complete, the instructors go through each exercise with the individual unit commanders. They find out what went right, what went wrong, and what can be done to improve. This attention to detail is vital. The only way our nation is going to maintain the best military in the world is to have the best leaders leading the best-trained forces. They're getting that education at the National Training Center.

Countless individuals provide that education. I met two who I'd like to highlight. Colonel J.D. Thurman is Chief of the Operations Group, and Colonel John Rosenberger is Commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Both men are soldiers. But both are educators. They take their jobs very seriously, and they see the value to what they're doing. It's because of their dedication and skill that our Army turns out commanders for the next century—commanders who will be on the front lines of defending democracy.

I would like to encourage my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee and others in the Senate to visit the National Training Center and see it first hand. You can't leave there without being totally impressed with the dedication of the officers and the enlisted personnel at Fort Irwin and their belief in what they're doing. To see how it enhances the morale and training of units that rotate through NTC, is impressive. This is a national resource that deserves our utmost support.●

#### RETIREMENT OF JOHN TURNER

● Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, John Turner will retire this year after more than twenty-five years of service to the forest products industry. A native of Camden, Arkansas, John is completing a long and distinguished career with the Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

John joined Georgia-Pacific Corporation in 1972 as Public Relations Manager for the Crossett, Arkansas, Division. His responsibilities were expanded to include government relations in 1977 for the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas. In 1983, he assumed responsibility for state-level government affairs for the corporation and relocated to Washington, D.C.

In his present position as Vice President of Government Affairs, John has directed and coordinated the corporation's Federal and State government affairs staff and legislative policy for the corporation in Washington and in the eight state office locations.

In addition to a long association with various entities in the forest products industry, John also had a career in radio and television broadcasting. John was educated at Southern Arkansas

University in Magnolia, Arkansas, receiving a degree in communications.

Active in forestry and trade associations, John serves on the American Forest and Paper Association's Energy Council and chairs the Endangered Species Reauthorization Committee. John has also served two terms on the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and one term on the Arkansas Forestry Commission. He is also a member of the Public Relations Society of America.

Despite his consuming dedication to his industry, John has made time for numerous civic duties, including work with the Jaycees, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Boys Club of America, and United Way. He has served his local community as a city airport commission member and as a member of the hospital board of directors.

Mr. President, I am proud of the association I have had with John Turner over the years. He has been a steadfast friend and a trusted adviser on issues of importance not only to his industry, but to the economy of our beloved State as well. His preparedness, integrity and willingness to compromise have served him and his industry well.

I wish John and his lovely wife Jean a long and relaxing retirement. Perhaps John's retirement from his "day" job will give them time to more faithfully follow their beloved Razorbacks football and basketball teams, as well as enjoy their two daughters and two granddaughters.

Mr. President, John Turner leaves big shoes to fill in the forest products industry. I hope his successors will look to his fine example of the role of the lobbyist and spokesperson in our system.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN "SPANKY" KIRSCH, USAF

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Kevin "Spanky" Kirsch, United States Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement after over twenty years of exemplary service to our nation. Colonel Kirsch's strong commitment to excellence will leave a lasting impact on the vitality of our nation's military procurement and information technology capabilities. His expertise in these areas will be sorely missed by his colleagues both in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill.

Before embarking on his Air Force career, Colonel Kirsch worked as an estimator/engineer for Penfield Electric Co. in upstate New York, where he designed and built electrical and mechanical systems for commercial construction. In 1978, Colonel Kirsch received his commission through the Officer Training School at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX. Eagerly traveling to Williams AFB in Arizona for flight training, Colonel Kirsch earned his pilot wings after successful training in T-37 and T-38 aircraft.

In 1980, Colonel Kirsch was assigned to Carswell AFB, in Fort Worth, TX, as a co-pilot in the B-52D aircraft. While serving in this capacity on nuclear alert for the next five years, he earned his Masters degree, completed Squadron Officer School and Marine Corps Command and Staff School by correspondence, and earned an engineering specialty code with the Civil Engineering Squadron.

An experienced bomber pilot serving with the 7th Bomb Wing, Colonel Kirsch, then a First Lieutenant, served as the Resource Manager for the Director of Operations—a position normally filled by an officer much more senior in rank. He was selected to the Standardization Evaluation (Stan-Eval) Division and became dual-qualified in the B-52H. Subsequently, he was selected ahead of his peers to be an aircraft commander in the B-52H.

Colonel Kirsch was selected in 1985 as one of the top 1% of the Air Force's captains to participate in the Air Staff Training (ASTRA) program at the Pentagon. His experience during that tour, working in Air Force contracting and legislative affairs, would serve him well in later assignments.

In 1986, Colonel Kirsch returned to flying in the FB-111 aircraft at Plattsburgh AFB, NY. He joined the 529th Bomb Squadron as an aircraft commander and was designated a flight commander shortly thereafter. He employed his computer skills to help automate the scheduling functions at the 380th Bomb Wing and was soon designated chief of bomber scheduling.

Following his tour with the 529th, Colonel Kirsch was assigned to Strategic Air Command (SAC) Headquarters at Offutt AFB, NE. As Chief of the Advanced Weapons Concepts Branch, he served as a liaison with the Department of Energy on nuclear weapons programs and worked on development of new strategic systems—including the B-2 bomber. Colonel Kirsch was one of four officers chosen to be part of the commander-in-chief's (CINC's) staff group to facilitate the transition of SAC to Strategic Command (STRATCOM). Originally picked as a technical advisor for weapon systems, he soon became the legislative liaison for STRATCOM. In this capacity, Colonel Kirsch organized congressional delegations to visit STRATCOM, and managed CINC STRATCOM's interaction with Capitol Hill.

In 1994, Colonel Kirsch traveled here, to Washington, to begin his final assignment on active duty. Initially serving as a military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Colonel Kirsch once again quickly distinguished himself and was designated the special assistant for acquisition and C3 policy. Representing the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for C3I, Colonel Kirsch managed a myriad of critical initiatives including acquisition reform and information assurance. He